

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

**DIVISION OF MEASUREMENT
STANDARDS**

**ALTERNATIVE
ENGINE
FUELS**

Division of Measurement Standards

Petroleum Products Program

- Since 1931 has maintained minimum quality standards for spark-ignition engine fuels, compression-ignition engine fuels, kerosene, brake fluids, motor oils, gear oils, automatic transmission fluids, and engine coolants sold in California.
- Regulates the advertising and labeling of these products.
- Monitors the marketplace through sampling and operates two laboratories in the state for the testing and analysis of routine and suspect samples.
- Substandard products are removed from the marketplace and appropriate enforcement action is taken.

Division of Measurement Standards

Engine Fuel Specifications

The Division of Measurement Standards is required to adopt specifications for engine fuels pursuant to the Business and Professions Code.

“The department shall adopt by reference the latest standards established by a recognized consensus organization or standards writing organization, such as ASTM International or SAE International, for automotive spark-ignition engine fuel and compression-ignition engine fuel, except that no specification shall be less stringent than required by any California state law.”

Developmental Engine Fuel Law

AB 1618 (2001) amended the Business and Professions Code to allow the Division of Measurement Standards to grant variances from the specifications for engine fuels found in Division 5, Chapter 14.

Developmental Engine Fuel Regulations

The Division of Measurement Standards adopted regulations further detailing specifications for Developmental Engine Fuels in mid 2002.

California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9, Chapter 6, Section 4144.

Developmental Engine Fuel Defined

“Developmental engine fuel” means any experimental automotive spark-ignition engine fuel or compression-ignition fuel which does not meet current standards established by this chapter but has characteristics which may lead to an improved fuel standard or the development of an alternative fuel standard.

Developmental Engine Fuel Variance Requirements (Law)

- Only granted for the gathering of information, under controlled test conditions, to assist in the creation of chemical and performance standards.
- Fuel distributed and sold to fleet-type centrally fueled vehicle and equipment users.
- All parties must be warned in writing of any potential risk associated with the fuel's use.
- Must report information for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the standards development.
- The Department will express no opinion on the fuel's performance or effectiveness.

Developmental Engine Fuel Variance Requirements (Regulation)

The applicant must submit:

- A statement of the potential benefit of the fuel to the people of California
- A description of test conditions associated with the use of the fuel, including control and monitoring practices, and the method of distribution and storage.

Developmental Engine Fuel Variance Terms and Conditions

- Valid for two years with an automatic renewal for an additional two years.
- Damages caused handled in accordance with contractual provisions agreed upon by the authorization holder and the user.
- Information is reported to the Department during the process of developing a generally recognized chemical and performance standard.
- The Department specifies the reporting requirements on a case by case basis at the time the authorization is granted.

Developmental Engine Fuel Variance Revocation

The Department may take action to revoke the authorization at any time, if the Department finds the authorization holder:

- Has violated any of the terms and conditions of the authorization; or,
- Has abandoned efforts to develop a consensus chemical and performance standard for the fuel; or,
- There is a high probability of equipment harm with the continued use of the developmental fuel or to protect the public safety.

Developmental Engine Fuel Variance Termination

The authorization for the variance ceases to exist upon publication of a chemical and performance standard for the fuel by a recognized consensus organization such as ASTM International or SAE International.

The Division of Measurement Standards will adopt into regulations that standard by reference.

Biodiesel Fuel

- The Division of Measurement Standards, working with the National Biodiesel Board, is in the process of adopting specifications and labeling requirements for biodiesel fuel and biodiesel fuel blends.
- Proposed specifications based on ASTM standard specifications D 6751 and D 975.
- Comment period closes at 5:00 p.m. August 25, 2003.
- Text available on the Division's web site at: www.cdffa.ca.gov/dms